

1. (amended) A lifting assembly arranged to lift an object which has a width dimension and is at least partially surrounded by a base surface which has a substantial horizontal alignment component, such as a manhole cover surrounded by a paved or ground surface, said assembly comprising:
  - a) a base support assembly comprising:
    - i. a beam structure which has a lengthwise axis, is adapted to be positioned above the object, and has a length dimension greater than the width dimension of the object, said beam structure having a first pivot end and a second mobile end [;] spaced from one another a sufficient distance so that the beam structure can be placed over the object to be lifted, with the first and second ends engaging the base surface in load bearing relationship on opposite sides of the object to be lifted, said beam structure being [a] the primary load carrying structure relative to the object to be lifted;
    - ii. a pivot support connect to the beam structure and located at the pivot end thereof, and arranged to support the pivot end of the beam structure from the base surface [;] at a substantially stationary base surface pivot location on one side of the object to be lifted during movement of the lifting assembly;
    - iii. a mobile support connected to the beam structure and located at the mobile end thereof, and arranged to support the mobile end of the beam structure from the base surface on an opposite side of the object to be lifted, said mobile support having a

mobile base surface engaging [means] portion to enable the mobile support to be moved laterally over the base surface;

- b) a lifting mechanism mounted to the [base support assembly] beam structure between the pivot support and the mobile support and comprising a lift connection to engage said object and an [actuating means] actuator acting through said lift connection to lift said object whereby said lifting assembly can be positioned over said object with the pivot support being on one side of said object and the mobile support being on an opposite side of said object, so that said lifting mechanism is able to raise said object, and the mobile support of said lifting assembly can be moved laterally so as to move said object about said pivot support.

Please cancel claim 2.

In claim 3, line 2, change “means” to –portion--.

In claim 4, line 2, change “means” to –portion--.

Please add the following new independent claim 21.

21. A lifting assembly arranged to lift an object which has a width dimension and is at least partially surrounded by a base surface which has a substantial horizontal alignment component, such as a manhole cover surrounded by a paved or ground surface, said assembly comprising:
- a) a base support assembly comprising:

- i. a beam structure which has a lengthwise axis, is adapted to be positioned above the object, and has a length dimension greater than the width dimension of the object, said beam structure having a first pivot end and a second mobile end;
  - ii. a pivot support connected to the beam structure and located at the pivot end thereof, and arranged to support the pivot end of the beam structure from the base surface;
  - iii. a mobile support connected to the beam structure and located at the mobile end thereof, and arranged to support the mobile end of the beam structure from the base surface, said mobile support having mobile support having mobile base surface engaging means to enable the mobile support to be moved laterally over the base surface;
- b) a lifting mechanism mounted to the base support assembly and comprising a lift connection to engage said object and an actuating means to lift said object, said lift connection comprising a pair of collet fingers adapted to be positioned in a lift opening of said object, and expander to expand collet fingers outwardly to come into gripping engagement with the surface of said lift opening,

whereby said lifting assembly can be positioned over said object with the pivot support being on one side of said object and the mobile support being on an opposite side of said object, so that said lifting mechanism is able to raise said object, and said lifting assembly can be moved laterally so as to move said object.